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ON COLLECTION OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE STATISTICS.

In the Report of the Commissioner of Labor on *Marriage and Divorce*, 1889, information is given in regard to the different states of the United States which collect statistics of marriage and divorce. The following paragraphs are reprinted to aid those who may wish to collect such data independently : —

MARRIAGE STATISTICS.

In many of the states provision is made for state registration of marriages. Such registration is usually under the supervision of the state board of health, where such board has been created. The following statement shows what states have provided for such state registration, and also the authority under which the records are collected and preserved : —

States.	Authority.	States.	Authority.
Arkansas.....	State board of health.	Michigan	Secretary of the state board of health. (<i>b</i>)
California.....	State board of health.	New Hampshire	State registrar of vital statistics. (<i>c</i>)
Connecticut....	State board of health.	New Jersey.....	State board of health.
Delaware	State board of health.	New York.....	Bureau of vital statistics. (<i>d</i>)
Illinois	State board of health.	Pennsylvania ..	Central bureau of vital statistics. (<i>d</i>)
Indiana	State board of health.	Rhode Island...	Secretary of the state board of health. (<i>e</i>)
Iowa.....	State board of health.	Vermont.....	Secretary of state.
Kansas.....	State board of health.	Virginia	Auditor of public accounts.
Kentucky.....	Secretary of the state board of health. (<i>a</i>)	West Virginia..	State auditor. (<i>f</i>)
Maine.....	Secretary of the state board of health. (<i>b</i>)	Wisconsin.....	Secretary of state.
Massachusetts..	Secretary of the commonwealth.		

a Under the general direction of the auditor of public accounts.

b Under the general direction of the secretary of state.

c The secretary of the state board of health is the state registrar.

d Under the direction of the state board of health.

e The records shall be preserved in the office of the secretary of state.

f By chapter 63, Code of 1887, it is provided that the state system of registration of marriages shall be under the direction of the state auditor, but by chapter 150 of the same code [act of February 25, 1887] the state board of health is charged with this duty.

In Minnesota and Ohio statistics relating to marriage are collected and published under general provisions of law, in Minnesota by the assistant secretary of state, who is *ex-officio* commissioner of statistics, and in Ohio by the secretary of state. No specific provisions directing such collection and publication are found in the statutes of the respective states.

DIVORCE STATISTICS.

In Connecticut and New Hampshire the clerks of the courts are required, at the close of each term or session, to report the number

and causes of divorces granted at such term, in the first-named state to the secretary of the state board of health, and in the other to the registrar of vital statistics, and the returns so made are to be published annually.

Annual reports are required to be made in relation to divorces applied for and granted, the causes therefor, etc., by clerks of courts in Massachusetts and Vermont, to the secretary of state, and in Rhode Island to the secretary of the state board of health.

In Massachusetts the divorce statistics are to be reported annually to the legislature. In Rhode Island they are to be published annually, and in Vermont biennially.

In the year 1883 a law was passed in Maine requiring clerks of courts to make reports to the secretary of state within thirty days after the adjournment of any court having jurisdiction of divorce, in relation to applications and decrees therefor. This law was repealed by act approved February 1, 1887.

In Indiana, Minnesota, and Ohio statistics relating to divorces are collected and published under general provisions of law, in Indiana by the chief of the bureau of statistics, in Minnesota by the assistant secretary of state, who is *ex-officio* commissioner of statistics, and in Ohio by the secretary of state. No specific provisions directing such collection and publication are found in the statutes of the respective states.

STUDY OF STATISTICS.

In the September number, 1889, of the *Publications of the American Economic Association* there is published a paper on the *Study of Statistics*, by Prof. Davis R. Dewey. The paper was read at the last annual meeting of the Association. The following is an abstract:—

It is devoted to an outline of a possible course in statistics suitable for colleges. A description is given of the science of statistics as developed in Germany and France, which is shown to be encyclopædic in its character. It is thought such a course should be pursued only in a post-graduate department or by advanced students. For students of a purely collegiate rank, however, it is suggested that instruction in statistics may be given in connection with courses on Commerce, History of Industry, and Finance, or other subjects of economic history. The mere proving of statistical tables, in connection with United States finance, will be a benefit. In this way the student will acquire some delicacy in reconciling discrepancies, and he will gain independence and judgment. Similar laboratory work in statistics can be applied to the tariff history of the United States, and